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chemically bonded to the discontinuous wall. The continuous covering layer may be adhered to the discontinuous wall by radial pressure of the discontinuous wall against the continuous covering layer. The continuous covering layer may have a structured surface towards the discontinuous wall, wherein the continuous covering layer is adhered to the discontinuous wall as a result of said structured surface.

c1  
The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by radially contracting the stent; inserting at least a portion of the contracted stent into a tube the inner surface of which has been previously done over with a lifting medium; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; wetting the assembly tube plus stent with an elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in a sufficient amount of solvent to permit wet forming; evaporating the solvent; polymerizing the elastomeric composition in the tube; and taking the layer covered portion of the stent out of the tube. The tube, the inner surface of which has been done over with a lifting medium, may be first wetted along with the elastomeric composition added with solvent. The solvent may be evaporated before the step of insertion of the stent into the tube.

The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by doing over a roll on surface with a lifting medium; coating said roll on surface with an elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in a sufficient amount of solvent to permit contact forming; rolling at least a portion of the stent in expanded condition on said coated roll on surface; withdrawing the stent from the roll on surface; evaporating the solvent; and polymerizing the elastomeric composition adhered by contact on said portion of the stent.

The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by forming a tube of predetermined length with an elastomeric polymerisable composition; radially contracting the stent; inserting into the tube a portion of the stent corresponding to said predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube, and welding the surfaces of contact between the stent and the tube.

The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by forming a tube of predetermined length with an elastomeric polymerisable composition; coating the inside of the tube with an adhesive medium; radially contracting the stent; inserting into the tube a portion of the stent corresponding to said predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; and allowing the adhesive medium to cure.

C1 The present invention also relates to a method for applying a covering layer to a stent by forming a tube of predetermined length with an elastomeric polymerisable composition; coating the inside of the tube with an elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in a sufficient amount of solvent to permit contact forming; radially contracting the stent; inserting into the tube a portion of the stent corresponding to said predetermined length of the tube; allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; evaporating the solvent; and polymerizing the elastomeric composition adhered by contact to the tube and to the stent.

[ In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended): A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- C2
- (a) radially contracting the stent;
  - (b) coating the inner surface of a tube with a lifting medium;
  - (c) inserting at least a portion of the contracted stent into the tube;
  - (d) radially expanding at least [a] the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least [a] the portion of the stent to radially expand in the tube;
  - (e) preparing an elastomeric composition dissolved in a solvent;
  - (f) coating the tube and stent with the elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in [a] the solvent;
  - (g) evaporating the solvent;